## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 DC Office: 1629 K Street, NW, Suite 400 • Washington, DC • 20006 Phone: (202) 223-1240 • E-mail: pouchida@jacl.org

September 11, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler Commissioner Mignon Clyburn Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel Commissioner Ajit Pai Commissioner Michael O'Rielly Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: MB DOCKET NO 14-57

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is pleased to offer comments on the proposed transaction between Comcast and Time Warner Cable (TWC). The JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. With members in 103 chapters in 26 states, JACL is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community. We have partnered with Comcast to promote diversity and inclusion both in the classroom and the workplace.

JACL has worked with Comcast to promote its broadband adoption program, Internet Essentials, and make sure that Asian American immigrants and others are aware of the great opportunities available to them through Comcast. Internet Essentials has broken down major barriers for minority communities, including the Asian American community, and has helped pave the way toward equality in both the classroom and the office. For many immigrants, becoming digitally literate is the only way to find employment and become self-sufficient.

JACL supports the expansion of Internet Essentials into TWC markets to help bridge the digital divide for low-income Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) families with children that qualify for reduced or free lunch.

Comcast has also taken important steps to increase diversity and inclusion for Asian Americans and others in the television and film industry. The Memorandum of Understanding that Comcast and NBCUniversal signed in 2010 opened the door of access to media participation for Asian Americans. It has increased the inclusion of Asian Americans in media and within both corporations in five key areas: corporate governance, employment/workforce recruitment & retention, procurement, programming, and philanthropy and community investments. Comcast/NBCU launched an online news specifically delivering news and comment from an Asian Pacific Islander American perspective.

JACL supports similar efforts in TWC markets to create a diverse program platform that includes Asian Americans and APIA content in the industry.

Comcast launched a \$20 million Catalyst Fund designed to create opportunities for minority entrepreneurs through seed funding and start-up training programs. Several APIA start-ups received funding. Comcast increased its business with APIA-owned businesses by 114% from 2010 to 2013. Currently 8% of the directors and above are APIA and 5% of the VPS and above are APIA.

JACL supports the growth of AAPI suppliers and APIA businesses in TWC markets, and the placement of APIA management in TWC markets.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on the proposed transaction.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Ouchida

**Executive Director** 

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